

Message Text

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5

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 SCSE-00 SCA-01

OPR-02 /048 W

----- 122452

R 122130Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4476

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

UNCLAS GUAYAQUIL 0419

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, CASC, EC

SUBJ: DESTRUCTION OF SHELL OIL CO. LPG FACILITIES - GUAYAQUIL

REF: GUAYAQUIL 0397

1. FINAL REPORTS ON CATASTROPHE WHICH SHOOK GUAYAQUIL MARCH 10 STILL NOT AVAILABLE. MANY RUMORS IN CIRCULATION AS TO ACTUAL CAUSE - INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF SABOTAGE OR ARSON- BUT WE BELIEVE POSSIBLE CAUSE MENTIONED REFTEL STILL BEST BET.

2. IN TYPICAL QUOTE LOCKING OF BARN DOOR AFTER HORSE STOLEN END QUOTE FASHION PEOPLE NOW DEMANDING ACTION TO OBVIATE FUTURE OCCURENCES SIMILAR NATURE INLCUDING REMOVAL ALL SUCH FACILITIES FROM NEAR CITY OR RESIDENTIAL AREA. ACCIDENT HAS GALVANIZED GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES INTO ACTION; ACQUIRE SUFFICIENT FIRE FIGHTING PROTECTION, SOMETHING FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ASKING A LONG TIME.

3. LOSS HAS BEEN PUT AT SUCRES 250 MILLION OR APPROX. 10 MILLION DOLLARS. THOUGH HARD TO SEE HOW FIGURE ARRIVED AT. ASIDE FROM COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OF SHELLGAS OTHER NEARBY INSTALLATIONS SUFFERED ONLY EXTENSIVE MINOR DAMAGES TEXACO REPORTS CONFIRM THIS AS DOES UNCLASSIFIED

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REPORT OF MOLINOS DEL ECUADOR. CONTRARY TO EARLIER

REPORT TEXACO DOES HAVE SOME DAMAGE TO ROOFING, WINDOW GLASS, AND BEAMS OF BUILDINGS. THERE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE BIG RUSHON WINDOW GLASS SUPPLIES, PARTICULARLY SINCE THIS THE PERIOD OF HEAVY, TORRENTIAL RAINS. MANY PRIVATE DWELLINGS IN THE AREA LOST WINDOWS FROM THE BIG BLAST.

4. THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF ANY INJURIES TO OR DEATHS RESULTING FROM THE EXPLOSION AND FIRE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS.
BISHTON

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NNN

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